

Temperance.

Temperance Petitions.

From the following account our readers will be able to form an opinion of what has been done with the Petitions forwarded for presentation to the Legislative Council:—

TUESDAY, March 2.

Hon. Mr. Morton presented a petition from Ladies of Lower Horton, on the subject of Temperance.

Hon. Mr. Morton presented a second petition from Lower Horton, on the subject of Temperance.

FRIDAY, March 5.

Hon. Mr. Brown presented petitions, on the subject of Temperance, from Yarmouth, Liverpool, Digby and Shelburne.

Hon. Mr. McCully presented a petition on the subject of Temperance from Cumberland.

Hon. Mr. Bell presented three petitions on the subject of Temperance, signed by ladies.

Hon. Mr. Campbell presented petitions on the subject of Temperance from Cape Breton, Colchester, Guysboro' and Pictou.

Hon. Mr. Morton said, in reference to petitions on the subject of Temperance, that they deserved the serious attention of the House. They seemed the voice of the people, and he did not know how the Legislature could avoid taking due notice of the "well-understood wishes of the people."

They were signed by some persons who, to his knowledge, had been until recently intemperate; who had, consequently, lost or squandered their property, and who beheld their families destitute of education, and of the common requisites of life. These were looking up to the House, as, in some sense, the fathers of the community, to stop the evil. The house was in duty bound to give fair consideration to their requests, and to adopt measures for accomplishing the desired end.—These petitions were not signed by one class of the people merely, but by every class—and by some who could not refrain from that which had injured them, but who looked to the House to stop its course. These were the "well-understood wishes of the people."

Hon. Mr. McDougall moved that a committee be appointed to ascertain how signatures to the petitions had been obtained—whether they were genuine—whether the persons who signed were of sufficient age to append their names. When these petitions were called the well-understood wishes of the people, he wished the House to see that it was proceeding on fair, legitimate grounds.

Hon. Mr. McCully said that was the first time he heard such objections to signatures. It was enough if the parties wrote their names.

Hon. Mr. McDougall wished to know whether they did or not, or whether others signed for them. He said he was not then giving any argument for or against the petitions, but would move that these and all others on the same subject be referred to a select committee.

After some delay,—

Hon. Mr. Bell said, that he had no objection to second the proposition, and he supposed he was then at liberty to make some remarks. He was aware that difficulty and obstruction would be offered to the question, as to all other reforms. Scarcely one improvement could be mentioned which had not met with strong opposition from persons prejudiced, interested, or otherwise influenced. All political and moral reforms had that experience. So it was with the great reform of the empire. Persons in authority or possession of power said that it was trespassing on their rights. So with the slave trade, and many other subjects. He was not surprised that so many ladies had come forward to advocate this reform. At one time dissolute husbands claimed the right of selling their wives—and those who interfered to abolish the practice, were said to trespass on the rights of the selling parties. Almost every reform was so treated, and so might be expected, especially, on this subject. Those who advocated the reform, should be prepared, and were no doubt, to meet with the sneers, and varied opposition, and sarcasms, of those who were not favourable. He did not say, however, that he was at that time prepared to vote for the measure sought, although if he thought it were practicable he would. Some explanation might be desirable respecting his remarks when alteration of the license laws were under consideration. He opposed that, thinking it unfair to harass the man who sold a small quantity, while another was permitted to bring it in by punchcoons, and it was treated as a source of revenue. Again, and again he (Mr. B.) said, Deal fairly with the subject—attack the article wherever it appears. The petitions are here now, which come to that. They have arrived (said the hon. gentleman) at the position for which I have been contending. I have not yet, however, arrived at the conclusion respecting the time. I do not say how I may act. But I say if it were possible to carry out such a law, I believe it would be an incalculable benefit to society, and I could vote for it consistently with my former remarks. Would it injure any individual, any family, or the community generally? No. Respecting individuals, suppose those who have the power of abstaining,

if they had the will, would they be injured by altogether abstaining from intoxicating drinks? Would it injure families? Few families, indeed, are there who, in some of their connections, have not had cause to regret the influence of the despicable, fatal habit. Not one family out of ten could say that it was altogether free from the evil deplored. Would abstinence injure communities?—Would there not be fewer in penitentiaries, jails and bridewells? In none of these respects would it be unfavourable to general safety and happiness—but the reverse. I do not wonder, sir, that thousands of females, and of the younger members of families, who perhaps suffer most from the evil, ask in this way for remedy. Fancy a woman joined to a drunken husband,—fancy a mother seeing her child going astray by means of the habit;—should they not have a deep interest in the question, even the youngest who is capable of reflection.

Injury to the revenue had been spoken of. I deny that injury would result. I believe, if intoxicating drinks could be banished from common use, that the revenue would greatly increase. Labour is the source of wealth. The man who makes himself incapable of industry, in body or mind, does not add to the general wealth. If this article were banished, industry and wealth would be increased. If the desired law could be carried out, many varied advantages would accrue to the community. The question is, am I prepared to sustain the measure asked for? I do not say so; but if I considered it practicable, I would sustain it. I fear that to make a law of that kind, which would not be carried into effect, would be worse than not enacting it. I consider that this is only the commencement of a great good. The time may come—although it may not be yet arrived—for the legislation now desired. I may not be as far advanced on these subjects as others. I am not what is called a Son of Temperance, but only a member of a Temperance Society. For twenty or thirty years past my mind has been more or less affected with this question. I was engaged in a business that, to some extent, was contrary to the movement. I surrendered it, and resolved that I would no longer be at war with my own mind respecting such matters. I took a more decided position—allowing sneers to be as they might. I believe that the time will come when this law will be carried into effect. It will be when the sober people, denying themselves for the sake of others, come forward for the cause—when a large majority, say seven-eighths of the population, have arrived at one mind on the subject.—Then the law will be carried out,—such a majority will see that it is. This is the first movement.

Hon. Mr. McDougall—I do not give opposition to the petitions. I wish for a committee who should bring in a report, and advise the House what course should be adopted. The subject is before the other House. The proceeding there may be by bill or otherwise, and we might act accordingly—or a measure might originate with this branch. To appoint a committee to examine the petitions, and report generally, would be in accordance with a common course to be pursued in other matters. I do not speak generally now, as to whether men should be coerced into virtue, or whether moral suasion should be the mode.—I agree with the hon. gentleman who says that he thinks the time has not come for the legislation desired. I might turn to historical examples on this subject, and to the modern practice of men to virtue. If the law could not be carried out, temptation would be given to smugglers, those who abided by the laws of the trade would be thrown out. However, I now only move for a committee.

Hon. Mr. Morton—There is no objection, I suppose, to the appointing of a committee. Respecting the signatures, it is well known, that in the country petitions are handed round until the paper is nearly worn out, and they are copied to be sent to the Legislature. Thus many signatures may appear in the one handwriting. As to under age, I know not that guardians are not entitled to sign for younger persons. Could anything have a much more moral effect on children than their aiding in petitions for this purpose? I agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) that the revenue would not decrease under such a bill as that desired. Money now expended for intoxicating drinks, would be expended for better food and clothing, if rum could not be obtained. Duty would be paid on various articles of use, instead of on rum. But if the revenue did not increase—if the revenue from the sale of intoxicating liquors should not be made up—what would signify a sum of £10,000 compared with the evil of intemperance? It is as nothing—nothing if all were lost. I believe, however, that it would not be lost—that the people would live better, be better, and the revenue be thus increased. Look, however, to the money expended in intoxicating liquors. The petitions state that £100,000 were so expended last year. That large sum went for nothing—for an article not worth so many pence to any one. Those who dealt in it might suppose that they were benefited.—I think that they were not. I have seen several such people come to the grave in distress and sorrow. I hope, sir, that the committee will be authorised to report by bill. Enough has been expended on the drinks petitioned against to have built the Railroad; and the money expended has done no good, but

much harm and evil. Females have signed many petitions. Have they not suffered as well as the men, and more, in consequence of the habit? Have they not seen their little children about them suffering, perishing, because of intoxicating drinks—and should they not be deeply interested in the question? Let intoxicating liquors be destroyed wherever taken, and then there would be but little smuggling. Because the liquor is allowed to come into the Province smuggling exists.

Hon. Mr. Campbell thought the question might be deferred until the proceedings of the other House should appear.

Hon. Mr. McDougall—Why wait! We may go farther on the subject than they.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Honbles. Messrs. Morton, Campbell, Bell, McDougall and Almon.

Family Circle.

I Got a-Going and Couldn't Stop.

A little boy named Frank, was standing in the yard, when his father called him.

"Frank?" "Sir?" said Frank, and started full speed, and ran into the street. His father called him back, and asked him if he did not hear his first call.

"Yes, sir," answered Frank.

"Well, then," said his father, "what made you run out into the street?"

"Oh," said Frank, "I got a-going and couldn't stop."

This is the way that a great many boys get into difficulty; they get a-going, and can't stop. The boy that tells lies, began first to stretch the truth a little—to tell a large story, or to relate an anecdote with a very little variation, till he got a-going and couldn't stop; till he came out a full grown liar.

The boy that was brought before the police, and sent to the house of correction for stealing, began by taking little things from his mother—by stealing sweatmeats and other nice things that were put away.—Next he began to take things from his companions at school. He got a-going and could not stop till he got into jail.

Those two boys that you see fighting out on the green, began by bantering each other in fun. At length they began to get angry, and dispute, and call each other hard names, till they got a-going and couldn't stop. They will separate with black eyes and bloody noses.

There is a young man sitting late with his companions at the gaming table. He has flushed cheeks, an anxious look, a despairing countenance. He has lost his last dollar. He began playing marbles in the street; but he got a-going and couldn't stop.

See that young man, with a dark lantern, stealing from his master's drawers. He is a merchant's clerk. He came from the country a promising boy. But the rest of the clerks went to the theatre, and he thought he must go too. He began thinking he would go only once, just to have it to say he had been at the theatre. But he got a-going and could not stop. He has used up all his wages, and wants more money. He cannot resist the temptation, when he knows there is money in the drawer. He has got a-going—he will stop in the State prison.

Hark! do you hear that horrid oath? It comes from the foul mouth of a little boy in the street. He began by saying by-words; but he got a-going and couldn't stop.

Fifty young men, were some years ago, in the habit of meeting together in a room at a public house, to enjoy themselves in social hilarity, where the wine cup passed freely round. One of them as he was going there one evening, began to think there might be danger in the way. He turned on his heel, and went to his room, and was never seen at the public house again. He has become rich; and the first block of buildings which he erected was built directly in front of the place where he stood when he made that exclamation. Six of the young men followed his example. The remaining forty-three got a-going and couldn't stop, till they landed in the ditch, and most of them in the drunkard's grave.

Beware then boys, how you get a-going. Be sure before you start, that you are in the right way; for when you are sliding down, hill it is hard to stop.—Rev. H. Newcombe.

How to lay up Money for a Rainy Day.

A number of years ago, Charles and Clara S—, were married in the city of New York. Charles was wealthy and in good business—very comfortable circumstances for a young man, which tended, of course, to develop his natural liberal disposition. Feeling thus happy and independent of the world's frowns, he proposed to his youthful bride, one day during the honey-moon, to give her five thousand dollars for every "scion of his house" which should be engrafted upon the family tree—an arrangement, as may be supposed to which the lovely Clara made not the slightest objection. Time passed on,—Charles faithfully performed his agreement and making no inquiries as to the disposition of the money by his better half, until they had been married some ten years; fortune which had smiled with constancy, suddenly turned her back and left him high and dry among the breakers of Wal-street. When the crisis had arrived, he went home with a heavy heart, to announce the sad news to his wife, that he was an irretrievably ruined man—that his property had all gone to satisfy his creditors, and nothing was left.—"Not exactly so bad as that my dear," said Clara. "Wait a minute, and see what I have been doing." Thus saying, she ran up stairs, and soon returned with a deed in her own name, of one half of an elegant block of houses in the neighbourhood, worth thirty thousand dollars. "You see I have been industrious," continued she, "and have laid up something for a rainy day. If you had been as smart as your brother we might have had the whole block by this time."—Kewbec Journal.

Female Society.

Of all the refiners of the coarse nature of man, true female society is the most effective. There is a respect for the softer sex implanted in us by nature, that gives a desire to appear well in the presence of delicate and intelligent females, and has a tendency to elevate our feelings, and make us assume a gentleness and propriety of deportment totally at variance with all coarseness or vulgarity. Such is the influence of the intercourse of which we speak, in forming the character, that we do not recollect ever having seen a young man devoted to the society of ladies of his own age, that did not do well, and prosper in life; whilst, on the other hand, we have observed many who by confining themselves to associations with their own sex, acquired a roughness and uncountness of manner that entirely unfitted them for the intercourse of life. We are perfectly aware that a foolish timidity is at the bottom of this; we esteem it a great defect of character. If the ladies were only aware of the power they rightfully possess in forming the habits and manners of men, they would take pains to allay the sensitiveness which produces want of ease in their presence, and by becoming affability and kindness, cherish confidence and self-possession. The members of the two sexes were intended by their Maker to be companions for each other; and the more easy and free their intercourse can be—due regard being had to strict propriety—the more delicate and refined will be the sentiments of all concerned.—G. P. R. James.

General Miscellany.

The Music of Nature.

Any ear may hear the wind. It is a great leveller; nay, rather, it is a great dignifier and elevator. The wind that rushes through the organ of St. George's Chapel at Windsor, has first passed through the organ of some poor Italian boy; the voice of Albion and that of a street singer have but one common capital to draw upon—the catholic atmosphere, the unsectarian air, the failure of which would be the utter extinction of Handel, Haydn, and all the rest. This air, or atmosphere—the compound of nitrogen and oxygen, to which we are so deeply indebted—sometimes plays the musician of itself, and calls upon Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn, upon the ocean and the forest; and they, like invisible but not inaudible performers, make